

# HUNDREDS BURNED TO DEATH IN THEATRE

Film of Moving Picture Machine Catches and Quickly Spreads.

ACCIDENT OCCURRED IN ACAPULCO, MEXICO

Performance Was Given in Honor of General Damien Flores and Attracted Wealthiest and Most Prominent People. Dead Are Buried in Trenches.

MEXICO CITY, February 15.—Between 250 and 300 people were burned to death and many were injured in a fire which destroyed the Flores Theatre, in the city of Acapulco last night. The news of the disaster reached this capital this afternoon, telegraph communication with Acapulco having been destroyed, owing to the fact that the telegraph office adjoining the theatre was destroyed and all wires put out of commission. The theatre was a wooden affair, and last evening over 1,000 crowded into it to witness a special performance given in honor of General Damien Flores, of the state of Guerrero, who was visiting the port at that time. One of the numbers of the program consisted of a series of moving pictures, which were shown exhibiting the film caught fire, and the blaze was quickly communicated to some seating, which had been used for decorative purposes.

Flames spread. In an incredibly short time the flames spread to all parts of the structure. There were but three narrow exits, and the panic-stricken audience rushed to them, many falling and being crushed to death, the bodies choking the way of escape to others. The screams of those imprisoned were terrifying and heart-rending.

Owing to the rapidity with which the fire spread and its intense heat it was impossible to attempt rescue work, and the imprisoned were literally roasted alive, as the fire burned with little smoke and few were suffocated.

The efforts of the fire department were confined to the attempt to save adjoining buildings, and they succeeded so that the property loss was small. The telegraph office, post-office and customs building were damaged, but all the government records and registered mail was saved.

Scenes of Grief. To-day pitiful scenes of grief are being enacted in the streets of the little west coast port. Men, women and children are wandering from place to place hunting for relatives or friends. Many of the dead are from the first families of the State, the affair at the theatre being a social event of considerable importance, and calling out the wealthiest and oldest families for miles around.

In some instances entire families were wiped out of existence. The municipal authorities caused large trenches to be dug, and into these the remains of the dead were laid. According to telegrams from these, recognition of any of the dead has been an impossibility, owing to the fact that the bodies were burned in most cases to a crisp.

Telegrams to the American consul at Acapulco by the Associated Press asking for the names of American dead, have as yet not been replied to.

Acapulco, on the west coast of the state of Guerrero, is one of the three important ports of the Pacific coast of Mexico. Nearly all of the steamship lines make it a port of call, and the harbor is considered the best in the city to-day.

# TO BEAT PROHIBITION

It Is Now Predicted That South Carolina Stays Wet.

COLUMBIA, S. C., February 15.—It is now predicted that the State-wide prohibition bill will be beaten. The Senate has a majority of four for local option, and the House is equally as close. The local option forces in the House are well organized to demand roll calls on hundreds of amendments. The General Assembly will adjourn Monday, and the prohibition movement will fail with a special session, which is practically impossible.

# WOMEN FLY

His Sister and Cousin Lambert Passengers With Wilbur Wright.

PAUL, FRANCE, February 15.—Taking advantage of the return of the weather, Wilbur Wright left today as a passenger in his aeroplane to-day. This was her first flight, and they remained in the air for eight minutes. Prior to this, Mr. Wright had made a five-minute flight, with Countess Lambert as a passenger, and gave a twenty-minute lesson to Count Lambert.

# TARIFF CONVENTION

Leaders in Movement for Permanent Tariff Commission.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., February 15.—Leaders in the movement for a permanent tariff commission, which takes form to-morrow, are the members of the National Tariff Commission Convention in Indianapolis, arrived in the city to-day.

J. W. Van Cleave, of St. Louis, who probably will be permanent chairman of the gathering, and D. A. Thompson, of Charlotte, N. C., were among the more prominent of the arrivals.

# GRABBED SATCHEL

Thief Made Off From Bank With \$5,500.

MILWAUKEE, WIS., February 15.—Grabbing a hand satchel containing \$5,500 belonging to a big department store, a thief to-day made his way out of the First National Bank, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with the loot and escaped. The robbery was committed while the attention of a messenger for the department store was diverted for a moment.

# RESUME TRIAL TO-DAY

Both Sides in the Cooper Case Are Ready for Battle.

NASHVILLE, TENN., February 15.—On the eve of the trial of Duncan D. Cooper, Robin J. Cooper and John D. Cooper for the slaying of Senator E. W. Carmack, the factions are figuratively resting on their arms. Most of the witnesses for the State, who are from a distance, are in the city.

The others are on the way. Mrs. P. W. Carmack, wife of the slain, is expected to arrive to-morrow and will sit behind the attorneys for the State.

Ham C. Carmack, the dead man's brother, and S. S. Carmack, a cousin, are now here.

The State has proposed to establish that the death of Senator Carmack by the eye-witness, Geo. H. Stack, will begin to lay the foundation for its theory that the killing was the result of a conspiracy. Just at this point will come the big legal battle of the trial. The defense proposes to fight this contention from the fact that the eye-witness, Geo. H. Stack, is said to be very liberal once the ground work is laid, but this foundation must be very strong.

The State's early witnesses will be Mrs. Eastman, with whom the Senator was talking when shot, former State Treasurer, who carried out the Senator's threats to Senator Carmack; Carey Folk, brother of the State Treasurer, who saw the defendant standing near the scene of the tragedy; a few moments before it happened.

What time the defense will follow except the broad one of self-defense, has not been announced, nor will it be until the State case in chief is made.

Attorneys for both sides were in conference until late to-night. Both sides also had in their employ several hundred lawyers, and every stranger in the city is subjected to close scrutiny and espionage. There is little or no display of feeling in public, however.

The court officials have prepared to take care of large crowds.

Chief Justice ordered that only as many as can be accommodated with seats will be admitted to the courtroom. No tickets will be issued, and those who arrive first will get the prizes.

# OLDEST DIPLOMAT RESIGNS

Vignaud Was Secretary to Confederate Commission in Paris.

PARIS, February 15.—Henry Vignaud, secretary of the American embassy at Paris, has resigned, the resignation to take effect March 31. In a letter which he has forwarded to President Roosevelt, Mr. Vignaud assigns as the reasons for his resignation his advanced age and a group of prominent Americans who appreciate his long and faithful service have come forward and raised a fund of \$10,000 to provide for his remaining years. Among these are Levi P. Morton, Whitlaw Reid, J. Gordon Bennett, Ferdinand Blumenthal, and others.

Mr. Vignaud, who is seventy-nine years of age, and the oldest member of the American diplomatic corps abroad, leaves the service highly esteemed by all who knew him. As he is a Frenchman, he has been a member of the French diplomatic corps for many years.

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# SAILING VESSEL RAMS STEAMSHIP

Name of Former Unknown, but Thirty Men Are Drowned.

SURVIVORS PICKED UP; BOTH FOUNDERED

German Steamer Liberia Lands the Ten Men Saved in Algiers.

Took to Boats and Were Tossed About for Two Days.

ALGIERS, February 15.—An unknown sailing vessel rammed the Belgian steamer Australia during a storm February 12 near Algerian Island, in the Mediterranean, 100 miles from Gibraltar.

Both vessels foundered. The total loss of life was thirty, fourteen men from the sailing vessel and sixteen from the Australia. Ten members of the crew of the Australia, who had put off from that steamer in a small boat, were picked up by the German steamer Liberia, and brought here to-day.

Captain Norman, of the Australia, who was the last to leave his ship, states that he left Oran on Wednesday in heavy weather. On Friday morning the fog was so dense that it made navigation almost impossible. Suddenly a large sailing vessel loomed up and struck the Australia on the port bow.

Scrambled Into Boats. The steamer immediately settled, and sank within three minutes. The crew had just time to scramble into the boats, without food or clothes. They were tossed about for two days, during which time the boats became separated from each other. When the vessel in the captain's boat was giving up, the steamer Liberia was sighted, and she responded to their frenzied signals.

Captain Norman estimates the total number of victims at forty-six. So far as is known, only ten of the crew of the Australia, which numbered twenty-six, were saved, and the sailing vessel was of the class usually manned by thirty, all of whom it is believed, perished.

Senator Stone suggested that the Dupont Powder Company was the only source from which powder could be obtained.

"So," said the Missouri Senator, "the powder trust is the sole source of our supply except so far as the government itself manufactures powder at its own plant."

If the Secretary of the Navy should find that he could buy powder from no one except the trust, Mr. Stone wished to know whether that would be an "emergency" as provided for in the bill, and if so he wished to know whether the house provision was not a "pretense and a fraud on its face."

Mr. Hale declared that he did not believe it was "pretense and a fraud." Senator Tillman declared that the Constitution required that the bill be referred to a committee on the subject.

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# POWDER TRUST'S TARGET OF SENATE

Senator Stone Says House Amendment Is Pretense and Fraud.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR NAVY GROW LARGER

"Keeping the Promise to the Ear and Breaking It to the Hope," Is the Expression of Mr. Cummins—Night Sessions Probable.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 15.—The House provision in the naval appropriation bill that no part of the appropriation for powder should be paid to any trust or monopoly "except in the event of an emergency," was the subject of considerable criticism in the Senate to-day. That it was for the purpose of hoodwinking the public and would not really affect the purchase of powder to any appreciable extent was charged by Senator Cummins.

"The prohibition of the bill as passed by the House," said Mr. Cummins, "is keeping the promise to the ear and breaking it to the hope."

He added that he understood the Navy Department under this provision would buy from others and from the trust only black powder for loading shells, and such powder compared with all the powder used by the government, he said, so small as to be almost negligible. He charged the House with deceiving.

"If that be true," Mr. Cummins said, "we have here a bill which has been heralded to the world as one which prohibits the United States from buying powder from combinations in restraint of trade while in fact it contains no substantial limitations whatever."

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# SENATOR P. C. KNOX IS NOW ELIGIBLE

House Finally Passes the Senate Bill Reducing His Salary.

HAD TO AMEND RULES TO TAKE SECOND VOTE

"What's the Constitution Between Friends?" Is Quoted, and the Late Tim Campbell Declared Justified as Constitutional Lawyer—Party Lines Broken.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 15.—By a vote of 173 to 117 the House to-day passed the bill removing the bar to Senator Knox's eligibility for the office of Secretary of State. This was the second vote of the day on this measure, and the two were separated only by about two hours' time. The first vote was taken on the bill under general order for the suspension of the rules, and under that order, according to the standing rules of the House, a bill must receive a two-thirds majority to insure its passage. The first vote stood 173 to 123, the majority thus falling considerably below the two-thirds requirement.

Immediately after this result was announced the House Committee on Rules held a meeting, which resulted in Mr. Dalzell's bringing in a rule making it in order for the House to again take up the bill and act upon it under conditions which would require only a majority vote to pass it.

Opponents Still Work. The opponents of the measure did not cease their antagonism, which, on the previous consideration, had brought about the passage of the bill, but immediately demanded a roll call on the previous question on the adoption of the rule. This call consumed twenty-five minutes, and after the rule had been adopted the debate resumed.

Mr. Olmsted, of Pennsylvania, contended that the bill does not accomplish an evasion of the Constitution. Among several other precedents, Mr. Olmsted cited the case of Senator Morrill, of Vermont, who was appointed Secretary of the Treasury.

In the opinion of Mr. Williams, of Mississippi, who opposed the bill, that was the only reputable authority added to the Senator Morrill, he said, had been confirmed through senatorial courtesy, which, he said, "overrides all laws, constitutional and otherwise." The bill, he declared, was "a clear, plain, palpable, obvious and manifest case of direct and expressed constitutional inhibition."

Tim Campbell Justified. Mr. Clark, of Missouri, for the second time during the day, took the floor in opposition to the bill, and said that Congress was making itself "the laughing stock of every intelligent man on the face of God's green earth."

He referred to a famous expression by the late Tim Campbell, of New York, who had asked "What's the Constitution between friends?" and said that if the bill under discussion was passed, Mr. Campbell would stand justified as a constitutional lawyer.

In adding his voice against the bill Mr. Caulfield, of Missouri, declared that it was a case of constitutional juggling or legislative favoritism.

The debate was brought to a close by a motion of Mr. Dalzell, of Missouri, who argued for the passage of the bill.

On a yeas and nays vote the bill was passed, 173 to 117. The bill passed by the House is the one which had been previously passed by the Senate.

It was not amended, and it will go to conference. The measure requires only the signature of the President to make it a law.

REMEMBER THE MAINE

Admiral Sigbee Principal Speaker at Services in Washington.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 15.—Memories of the Maine who was plunged to sudden death when the battle Maine went down in Havana harbor were honored here to-day in observance of the eleven anniversary of the sinking of the ship.

At St. Patrick's Catholic Church a military mass was celebrated by Rev. Thomas McGulgan.

A pilgrimage was made to Arlington, where, at the granite shaft which towers above the site of the Maine, the services were conducted in the presence of a throng of people.

Rear Admiral Sigbee, retired, commander of the ill-fated battleship, was the principal speaker, and his words depicted the story of the catastrophe which led the nation to war.

Several others delivered brief addresses, and two troops of mounted men from Fort Myer fired the salute. A large floral tribute was sent by President Roosevelt.

Ceremonies at Wreck. HAVANA, February 15.—A flotilla of launches carrying hundreds of members of the American colony, including Minister Morgan and Consul Rogers, visited the wreck of the Maine in Havana harbor and deposited many floral offerings to-day. A prayer was offered by the Right Rev. Alphonse W. Knight, Protestant Bishop of Havana, and addresses were made by Admiral Wright, president of the American Club, and others. The visitors to the wreck also united in the hope that before the next anniversary the United States government would remove the melancholy reminder of the great tragedy.

One Killed; Four Injured. TORONTO, Feb. 15.—Reports received here to-day from Cedar Bluff, Miss., state that the town was practically destroyed by a tornado yesterday afternoon. Five houses were completely blown away and timber fell in all directions. The storm came from the northeast, was accompanied by very heavy hail and nowed a path about 200 yards wide. Wires are down and tracks blocked with debris.

Miss Mary Ellis was killed outright; Alfred and Frank Ellis injured, and Miss Jane Stevens was injured internally. Will Aaron had a leg broken.

CONDITION HOPEFUL

Bishop Hoss Underwent Serious Operation in Baltimore Yesterday.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 15.—Bishop E. R. Hoss, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, underwent a surgical operation this morning at Johns Hopkins Hospital for intestinal trouble.

This evening Bishop Hoss was resting fairly well. Altogether the bishop's condition is serious, was regarded as hopeful.

# HENEY DRAWS DEAD LINE

Says He Is an American Citizen Before He Is District Attorney.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., February 15.—At the trial of Patrick Callahan on an indictment charging bribery, Assistant District Attorney Francis Henehy to-day resented the demeanor of a witness on the stand, and declared that he had "drawn a line over which no living man may step" in vilifying him.

Samuel Leake, who was summoned to the stand during the examination of venemore, because of an allegation that he had endeavored to purchase an interest in the haberdashery business of Leake, brother of one of the jurors, warned Mr. Henehy that he could make certain revelations concerning the prosecutor's past. Mr. Leake, who had been questioned as to his visit to a saloon, said: "I think it very improper for you to refer to these things, Mr. Henehy. I could tell of places I saw you."

"I want you to stop that right now," interrupted Mr. Henehy. "I don't propose that you shall make any more threats. You are here to answer questions."

"There is one conversation you don't dare to refer to," retorted the witness. "There was one when you went up the back way into the Call office and tried to go back on Phelan and Spreckels."

"That's all there will be of that," said Mr. Henehy. "I took this sort of thing from Henry Ach (attorney for Abraham Ruef) for months, until it led to an attempt at assassination, and after this I want it understood that I won't take it from any man living. If I am going to be shot again I'll be shot in front, not from behind, nor from the side."

Lewis F. Byington, of the defense, here took exception, saying: "We believe that the district attorney should recognize the limits of his duty in examining a witness."

Mr. Henehy rising pitched his voice so that it penetrated beyond the room, and said: "This district attorney is doing his duty as such, but before I am a district attorney, I am an American citizen, and in that capacity I want to say right here and now that I am going to have a line over which no living man may step. For months I took all the vilification that could be heaped on me merely because I dared to do my duty, which some one had to do, but I am through with it now, and I want this thoroughly understood."

The panel of twelve tentative jurors was broken by the discharge of one on peremptory challenge, and two alleged cases of jury tampering were made public.

MISSOURI OIL WAR

Jefferson City, Mo., February 15.—On the ground that the Waters-Pierce Oil Company, of Missouri, has not complied with the order of the Supreme Court of the State in its action filed this morning, Attorney-General Major John M. W. Moore filed in the Supreme Court of Missouri an acceptance of the terms imposed upon the company by the recent order of the court. The fine of \$50,000 was paid.

The order decreed provided that the company should pay for the oil that it had severed all connection with the Standard Oil Company. A statement of the court may yet be required by the court.

Judge Priest, however, said that he believed to-day's action covered the case of the Missouri corporation is concerned.

DROPPED DEAD ON TRAIN

F. L. Woodruff, of Atlanta, Formerly of Wilmington, Succumbs.

CHICAGO, ILL., February 15.—An unidentified man, forty-five years old, believed by the police to be F. L. Woodruff, of Atlanta, Ga., dropped dead, suddenly, from a train, near Chicago, on a Michigan Central passenger train bound for Detroit last night.

Formerly of Wilmington. WILMINGTON, N. C., February 15.—F. L. Woodruff, who dropped dead on a Michigan Central train to-day, was formerly manager for the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company in this city, but for the past several years has had a traffic position with the same company in the Southern Bell offices in Atlanta, Ga.

NO JOINT SESSION

Only Confederates Will Be at the Reunion at Memphis.

NEW ORLEANS, LA., February 15.—General of the United Confederate Veterans, to-day gave out the statement saying that there would be no joint session of the "blue and gray" at Memphis.

No invitations will be issued to any Confederate to take part in the reunion, as the committee of the order absolutely forbids any invitations to others.

BIDS FOR MONUMENTS

To Erect Two Over Confederate Graves in Northern Cemetery.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 15.—Twenty-one bids for the erection of two marble monuments over the graves of Confederate soldiers in the cemetery at Indianapolis, Ind., and at Arlington, Ill., were opened to-day at the War Department, which had allotted \$10,000 for the purpose. All the bids were within the allotment. Ten bids were for the monument at Alton and eleven at Indianapolis. The awards will be made in a few days.

PLEAD NOT GUILTY

Trial of New York American Publishers Set for February 23d.

NEW YORK, February 15.—Counsel for the New York American, to-day entered a plea of not guilty to the charge of criminal libel preferred against the company by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., because of an article published in the American about him. The trial was set for February 23.

ENFORCE LAW

Alabama Cotton Mill Men Indorse New Child Labor Bill.